

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Janet Woolum, President

I am honored to take the reigns of Friends and with the support of the other board members, I look forward to an exciting and challenging year. We will continue our support of the library's Adult Programs such as Diversity Dialogues and the Tempe Poets Series; Youth Services such as the Summer Reading Program and Family Place; and Outreach Services, such as the Westside and Escalante Community Centers collections and HealthStart Infant Reading Kits.

As we move into the new fiscal year, the library needs our help now more than ever as it faces significant budget cuts and staff shortages. We must do everything we can to support the library with new fund-raising efforts and a more engaged membership to be advocates for maintaining library services. Our membership is strong with 226 members, and members recorded

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more than 500 volunteer hours of service over the summer. Residents of Tempe are lucky to have a great library and involved citizens like the members of the Friends.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of three new board members, Jan Zingerman, Joan Littrell, and Linda Mattson. We still have one vacancy that needs filled. If you would like to be more directly involved in the Friends, please contact us at 480-350-5599. Other ways you can help include donating books and magazines, buying books in our book corner and book sales,

and encouraging your friends and family to make use of the library and its resources.

It was an exciting summer for the Friends with the success of the Summer Reading Program. More than 5,000 children participated in the regular reading program, and more than 1,000 teens enrolled the team program. With the funds donated by the Friends, the library staff was also able to provide

ABOVE THE STACKS

by Teri Metros,
Library Director

Record Setting Year

Contrary to what one might hear in the media about the Internet bringing about the decline of the public library, the good news is that American public libraries are busier than ever—and the Tempe Public library is no exception to this trend. At the end of the 2001/2002 fiscal year (July-June), the library's usage figures demonstrated some record-setting trends as compared to the previous year. The Library's door count was up by over 13% with 1,027,642 individuals visiting the library. Library users borrowed 1,265,451 items, an increase of 12%. Program attendance was also impressive with 34,560 people coming to the library to participate in children's and adult program offerings, an increase of 47%. Usage of the library's public access computers in-

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creased by 34% with 162,181 people visiting the library to gain access to the Internet and the Library's array of electronic information resources and software applications. Remote access to the Library's online catalog also grew by 36% with over 70,931 logins. We are very pleased that our library is one of the "in-places" in the community and want to thank our many users for making this one of our best years ever!

Tempe Children Read Their Way to the Ball Park



This year's summer reading program was a hit with our young library users. Over 5,600 children participated in the *Read Your Way to the Ball Park* program sponsored by the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Arizona Republic. We were particularly pleased to note that 2,385 children fully completed the program. The teen program was particularly successful this summer with 1,105 participants, almost double the amount from the previous year. Of the teen group, 460 teens completed the program, an increase of 18%. In addition to offering the summer reading program at the Library, we also offered the program to

children at the Escalante and Westside Community Centers, as well as to participants at the Kids Zone afterschool program sites. A key component of the program was a series of highly attended special programs for children that were offered throughout the summer at both the library and the community centers. Over 3500 children attended these programs at the Library and at the Community Centers. The summer reading program would not have been possible without the financial support of the Friends who provided funding for programs, printing, and incentive prizes. Thank you so much for helping us to achieve our goal of encouraging Tempe's youth to read and use the library throughout the summer.

New Millennium System Now On-Line

We are pleased to announce that our new library automation system is now online and operational. The Innovative Interfaces Millennium system was selected last year to replace the Inlex system that the library had for over twelve years. The Inlex system had to be replaced as it was no longer being supported by the vendor and was not able to take advantage of new developments in information technology. Innovative is a leader in the field of library automation and has thou-



sands of systems installed worldwide, including ASU, NAU and the U of A. In addition to providing the library with the ability to use cutting edge technology to streamline its critical operational processes, Millennium will dramatically improve our ability to directly serve library customers. The Millennium system features a completely redesigned online public access catalog with enhanced searching capabilities and links to information about specific titles in the catalog such as book cover graphics, tables of contents, summaries, and reviews. A separate *Kids Online* catalog is available that makes use of pictures and images to guide children through the search process. Users may connect to the Library's online catalog from home or office at <http://catalog.tempe.gov>. The catalog's *My Millennium* feature allows users to place holds on library materials, view personal circulation information, renew checked out items, and conduct a search of the catalog and save it for later access. Millennium also allows us to deliver notices via e-mail, a feature that has been frequently requested by our users. In the coming months, an automated telephone renewal and notification system will be implemented. As is the case with any major automation conversion, we did have a few bumps along the way and we truly appreciated the patience and understanding of our users.

Library Donates Books to the Thomas J. Pappas School

Thanks to a federal grant distributed via the Arizona State Library, library staff recently delivered a wonderful collection of new colorful new children's science books to the East Valley



campus of the Thomas J. Pappas School for homeless children. The Library's Youth Services staff and I presented the books to the children at a special afternoon event and it was truly rewarding for all of us to see how excited the children were to see these new books in their school library. This donation is part of an ongoing partnership that the Library has established with the Pappas school. A Youth Services Librarian visits Pappas each week to present storytimes and booktalks and Pappas brings their students to visit the library once a month.



Thanks Again!!



The Friends Wish to Thank the Following Organizations and Businesses for their Special Support of the Summer Reading Program:

- © **Tempe Sundown Optimist Club**
- © **Salt River Project**
- © **APS**

The Friends Support is More Valued than Ever!

It's no secret to anyone who reads the newspaper or who watches television that the economy has been in a downturn. The City of Tempe, like many cities in the Valley, has been particularly impacted by a decline in sales tax revenue. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons including the events of September 11th and the opening of the new mall in Chandler. In order to remain fiscally sound, the City has had to reduce expenditures. As a result, the financial support that we receive through the Friends' fund-raising efforts is more important than ever before. We want to thank Friends members for being on our team and helping us to deliver quality library services to the community.

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summer reading materials for the Westside and Escalante Multi-Generational Centers, Kidzone schools sites, and the Thomas J. Pappas School.

Our book corner sales continue to be steady and we anticipate great success with our semi-annual book sales. However, we are always looking for new fund-raising ideas, if you have any ideas regarding fund-raising efforts, please let us know. The Board would also like to acquire a computer for the Friends' office area. If you have a computer to donate, please let us know. We can be reached at 480-350-3599 or via email at Friendstempe@yahoo.com

Thank you for your on-going support. The library is the heart-beat of the community and we are proud to support its programs.

Check Us Out on the



<http://www.tempe.gov/library/friends/default.htm>

for further information about the Friends of the Tempe Public Library.

Time to renew?

Check the expiration date on your mailing label

CONNECT WITH US!

Tempe Public Library

<http://www.tempe.gov/library>

- Access search engines
- Link to recommended Web sites
- Find out about library programs, hours and much more.

Library Catalog

<http://catalog.tempe.gov>

- Check library material availability
- Renew library material and place holds (**My Millennium**)
- View your borrowing record

Magazines & Newspapers

<http://www.tempe.gov/library/perdir.htm>

- Search for full-text articles with your Tempe Public Library card number as a password.

Business Directories

<http://www.tempe.gov/library/libresource/electron.asp>

- With Reference USA, search for detailed records on more than 12 million U.S. businesses and 120 million households.

Questions? Call 480-350-5511



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